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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
19 April 1975

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Indochina
(As of 1600 EDST)
No. 17

VIETNAM

South Vietnam

1. The level of combat was at a fairly low level on April 18-19. There was some fighting in the southwest section of Long An Province as South Vietnamese forces along Route 4 encountered North Vietnamese units positioning for an attack toward Saigon from that quarter. The remaining remnants of government units pulled out of Phan Thiet, and the city, can now presumed to be in Communist hands. The Bien Hoa Airbase was hit with artillery fire throughout April 19th.

Status of South Vietnamese Forces

2. A senior staff officer of the JGS said on April 18 that there are no more reserve forces available for the defense of Saigon. All the reserves are currently deployed in the region and the JGS does not plan to bring in any more forces from the delta.

3. The South Vietnamese are pulling back some of their forces on the Xuan Loc battlefield to strengthen their defenses at Bien Hoa. The units remaining around Xuan Loc include two regiments of the 18th Division and the 1st Airborne Brigade. These units have taken heavy casualties and probably cannot hold out much longer in the face of further Communist attacks.

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4. The South Vietnamese are also contemplating moving the Military Region 3 Headquarters from Bien Hoa to My Tho in the delta or possibly to Long An Province, southwest of Saigon. General Toan, the region commander, was to meet with President Thieu on April 19, at which time Toan would probably brief him on the critical military situation now facing Saigon.

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South Vietnamese Bomb Communist Air Defenses

7. The South Vietnamese Air Force has been bombing North Vietnamese air defense units and equipment that has been detected moving to the north of Saigon. On April 16 and 17, air strikes were directed at SA-2 surface-to-air missiles and associated equipment in Quang Duc and Phuoc Long provinces, with undetermined results. Aerial photography has located numerous anti-aircraft artillery positions closer to Saigon but government airstrikes so far have been targeted largely against the heavy artillery the Communists are using to shell Bien Hoa.

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10. While the Communists have captured large numbers of helicopters and fighter-bombers from the government in recent weeks, they probably would be reluctant to use the aircraft in combat because of their lack of familiarity with the aircraft.

CAMBODIA

11. There is little new and firm information to report regarding the situation in Cambodia. A Khmer Communist broadcast today reported the surrender of nearly all GKR provincial capitals. According to press reports, another Communist broadcast reported the execution of some senior GKR officials in Phnom Penh.

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12. The GKR embassies in Bangkok, Singapore, following the lead of those in Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur, have now shifted their allegiance to the new government in Phnom Penh.

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